

House Resolution 273

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63rd, Mills of the 25th, Williams of the 165th, Coan of the 101st, Benfield of the 85th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to continue to press for strong measures to end the
2 violence in Sudan and urging the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide guidance
3 to public pension fund managers in order to avoid investments which may be supporting
4 nations involved in the support of terrorism or human rights violations; and for other
5 purposes.

6 WHEREAS, Sudan's government and southern rebels have come to an historic, long-awaited
7 agreement that ends Africa's longest civil war and brings hope to millions of exiled Sudanese
8 yearning to return home; and

9 WHEREAS, continued violence in the troubled region of Darfur, Sudan, previously
10 described by the Bush administration as genocide, casts a shadow over the agreement that
11 does not cover the Darfur conflict; and

12 WHEREAS, the government of Sudan appears to have sponsored a militia composed of a
13 loose collection of fighters, apparently of Arab background, known as the "Janjaweed"; and
14 with the active support of the regular army, the Janjaweed have attacked villages and
15 committed numerous human rights violations; and

16 WHEREAS, the humanitarian consequences of the situation in Darfur are grave, with an
17 estimated over 100,000 innocent civilians brutally murdered; and according to the Office of
18 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 2004 statistics, 662,302 people have
19 been internally displaced and 730,650 people have been forced from their homes to flee to
20 neighboring countries; and

21 WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Georgia abhor this violence and desire that their tax
22 dollars neither directly nor indirectly support these human rights violations through
23 investment in companies aiding the government of Sudan in these acts of terror; and

1 WHEREAS, the United States Congress established the Office of Global Security Risk in the
2 Securities and Exchange Commission to provide information to United States investors,
3 including public pension plans, to ascertain whether their funds are invested in corporations
4 with ties to governments that support terrorism; and

5 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Association of State
6 Retirement Administrators, the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and
7 Treasurers, and the National Council on Teacher Retirement have joined in urging the
8 Securities and Exchange Commission to assist investors by requiring companies to disclose
9 business conducted in states designated by the State Department as sponsoring terrorism.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
11 the President, the United States Congress, the United Nations, and the African Union are
12 urged to continue to work with the international community to press the government of
13 Sudan to halt these ongoing human rights violations.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Securities and Exchange Commission is urged to
15 issue guidance to public pension fund managers so that the state may be assured that its funds
16 are not invested in companies that are not in compliance with relevant U.S. laws and are not
17 contributing to terrorism.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
19 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Clerk of the House of
20 Representatives of the United States, the Clerk of the Senate of the United States, each
21 member of the Georgia delegation to the Congress of the United States, Christopher Cox,
22 Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, the Secretary General of the United
23 Nations, and the President of the African Union.